

BELIEVED IN GHOSTS.

Will Dr. Coues Keep His Promise to Come Back.

Washington Post.

Dr. Elliott Coues, the famous ornithologist and member of the National Academy of Sciences, who died not very long ago, was long recognized as the foremost advocate of the belief of the existence of ghosts. He had promised several of his friends that, if able to do so, he would appear to them after his own demise, and now they are waiting with no little interest to see if he can carry out his agreement. Himself a born ghost-seer, as he used to say, he enjoyed discussing the subject of phantoms in the same method of cool logical analysis as he would apply to the classification of birds or any other matter susceptible of approach by rational argument.

"I have myself seen the ghosts of a good many dead persons," said the doctor one day. "I remember one occasion, when I had just gone to bed, the light being turned out, I was composing myself to slumber when I suddenly became aware of a presence in the room. The impression conveyed to my mind was that it was the presence of a certain person lately deceased with whom I have been on very intimate terms. In fact, I felt an overpowering sense of the nearness of the individual in question. About the same moment there arose from the floor a nebulous mass of what looked like shining white vapor, which began to take shape, as did the smoke from the cigarette opened by the fisherman in the Arabian Nights tales. Gradually it assumed a more distinct outline, until it presented a radiant image of my friend. The lips appeared to move and from them came an intelligible utterance—a message, in short, from the departed. I do not care to say what the message was.

"I can assure you that the vision was no dream, and the nature of the message was such as to eliminate, to my own satisfaction, at all events, the theory of hallucination. What then was the shape of shining white vapor? Was it a human soul? It is a question pregnant with intense interest."

HAD THE GHOST CHILL.

The doctor took another, pipeful

of tobacco and lighted it, and with a reflective puff or two continued: "Every afternoon at about 5 o'clock I lie down on the sofa in my library for a brief rest before dinner. Occasionally, while enjoying this repose, though perfectly wide awake, there comes upon me the peculiar sensation of the ghost chill, which I will presently speak of. I wait with much attention and interest to see what is going to happen, and presently I find my own consciousness projected objectively, as it were, so that my consciousness stands out in the room and views my body lying on the lounge. About the latter is a bright light, which grows gradually until it has filled all the room, and my consciousness finds itself surrounded by phantoms, most of them of persons who appear to be strangers to me, while others resemble acquaintances who have long been dead. They seem to walk about and converse in the ordinary way, though not audibly. All the time I am clearly aware of the situation, and made useful mental note of whatever I observe, until after a few brief moments the spectacle vanishes and I find myself on the sofa again.

"It is obvious, if ghosts exist at all, that they must be made of something. My belief is that they are in a sense substantial and possess a semi-material structure. If you ask what I mean by 'semi-material,' I will refer for illustration to the ether which is understood to occupy all space. It has waves of known lengths and measured velocity, which strike upon the retina of the eye and produce impressions of light. In fact, we know a good deal about this ether, but nobody ever saw a particle of it, inasmuch as it has not the molecular constitution of ordinary matter. It is semi-material. I have no notion of the nature of the substance that makes a ghost, but I suppose that when a mandies it separates itself from the grosser particles that compose his physical organism. The latter decomposes, but the spiritual part of the individual does not necessarily share that fate, being composed of finer stuff.

INVISIBLE PHANTOMS OF THE DEAD.

"Did it ever occur to you that we ourselves may be moving in a world of unseen specters and continually surrounded, whether at home or on our walks abroad, by invisible phantoms of the dead? It has been estimated that for every human being now living 30,000 have died on this earth, so that, if the spiritual bodies of all pre-existence here after death, we survivors are but a comparative few passing a brief term of years of what we call life in the flesh amid a vast, impalpable swarm of beings incorporeal. Indeed, my own opinion is that it is only the very rare and exceptional ghost that makes itself visible to the living, and that such a phenomenon is to be regarded as wholly extraordinary.

"We have reason now to think that there is no such thing as the highly-conventionalized ghost represented in tradition and described in popular fiction the corpse-like apparition which enters by preference at the stroke of midnight, dressed in a winding sheet, smiling of the grave, and dragging a clinking chain through the sliding panel just by the door, while the candles burn blue and the dogs howl dismally. According to my own observation, and to the testimony of many other reliable persons who have observed such phenomena, the real spectre of a dead person shows few signs of life, resembling a magic-lantern picture more than to anything else to which it is readily comparable. It does not speak nor use its limbs, its method of locomotion, when it moves, being a gliding. It is clothed not in a winding sheet, but in garments such as were worn in life by the individual of whom it is the eidolon or image. It appears by daylight as often as at night, but never with any purpose in its actions that is at all comprehensible. Occasionally it is self-luminous. In most cases it disappears through a door or wall, but often it simply fades away in shadowy mist. Sometimes the phantasmal figure is seen as though illuminated on a dark background; sometimes the contour is indistinct and resembles a luminous cloud; sometimes there is no figure at all, but merely a diffused glow.

ALL OF US HAVE GHOSTS.

"Each of us, I believe, has in him a ghost, which ordinarily is confined to the precincts of the body. When I die my ghost leaves my body, and, having done so, perhaps it may continue to be the vehicle and means of expression of conscious will, memory

and understanding. St. Paul says, 'There is a natural body and a spiritual body.' It is of the spiritual body that I am speaking.

"Our senses take cognizance of no forms of matter except those which are in a certain degree of condensation, but, as I have already said, the spiritual body may be of a more rarified and tenuous substance. The non-appearance of ghosts to us may be a question not of the existence of spectres, but of the acuteness of our perceptive faculties. My own experience is that the coming of an apparition is always preceded by a curious sensation which I call the 'ghost chill.' When this symptom arrives the threshold of consciousness seems to be shifted to the extent of rendering possible a perception of something ordinarily invisible. The change is usually very brief, lasting only a few seconds, during which the manifestation occurs.

"Since childhood I have found myself possessed of an organism in which the threshold of consciousness is markedly capable of such shifting. On several occasions I have been aware of the presence of spiritual bodies of deceased persons, who gave to me information that was not otherwise obtainable, and who conveyed to my mind a conviction of their identity. The evidential value of these experiences is wholly personal, of course, inasmuch as they are not subject to the ordinary processes of verification.

"In each of us there is an inner individuality which differs wholly in its characteristics from our other self. It is not subject to the law of gravitation, and it cannot be mechanically affected to its injury or benefit. It does not depend for its being upon the welfare or survival of the body it inhabits. It is capable of changing its location by its own volition under certain circumstances, such as I will presently mention, though probably not exactly in accordance with our idea of transfer through space. To such a being the notion of time is doubtless different from our own, and this may give it a duration of existence comparable with our notion of endless life. Very likely it is not confined to this planet when once released from the body. Indeed, nothing forbids the assumption that it antedated the body which it inhabits. It is the soul of ordinary language, and may consist of a substance as dense for its conditions of environments as is the physical body for the conditions surrounding it.

"I have spoken of the permanent separation of the ghost from the phys-

ical body as implying the death of the latter, but there is plenty of evidence to show that it sometimes leaves the corporeal tenement for a brief time, presently returning. I myself have seen phantoms of living persons on more than one occasion, which looked and acted precisely as the individuals themselves might have done. They looked like figures thrown upon a screen by magic lantern usually, being recognized for a few moments, and then disappearing, but in some cases they had every appearance of solidarity, to the extent of hiding objects behind them. I never heard any of them speak, but on two or three occasions they gave intelligible messages by their attitudes and gestures. There is no essential difference between the spectre of a living human being and the apparition of a dead person, so far as appearances go. Each of us, as I have said, carries his own ghost with him, which is ordinarily under the control of the possessor, but sometimes appears to act independently. As a rule, the projection of a phantom by a living person is an involuntary act, resulting ordinarily from great mental perturbation, with the cause of which the individual to whom the spectre appears is in some way connected. The most startling instances of this kind occur a little before or a little after the death of the sender, and such ghosts are known as 'death wraiths.'

"One reason that I have for believing the evidence of my own senses in this matter is that on several occasions the apparition of my own personality has presented itself to other persons in places where my body was not at the time. Some years ago I was in Chicago, at an ordinary evening party with about forty friends, when an individual in Washington, who did not even know where I was, was visited by my phantasm, and received from it a brief message stating where I was at the time, and giving the names of two or three of the guests present—persons whom the observer was acquainted. This is one of the rare cases where a ghost made itself audible. The Society for Psychical Research has collected enough carefully attested and fully authenticated instances of such appearances to fill two bulky octavo volumes.

"Of course, in a study of this interesting subject, the chief and obvious difficulty is to distinguish veritable apparitions from mere hallucinations. We know that the bodily senses are very easily deceived, and therefore we have to be on our guard in sifting all the evidence obtainable. There is

probably not one of us who might not be haunted this very day or night by a spectre projected from his own imagination. Men of great reputation for learning have in numerous instances recorded their observations of familiar phantoms, which, though they recognized them as creatures of their own brains, have been constant companions of their waking hours, always likely to be on hand and accepting no hints to depart.

"You ask what would happen if one should approach a ghost such as I have described and try to touch it. My reply is that there would certainly be no danger in doing so, for spectres never do anybody any harm, the fear of them entertained by most people being simply a dread of that which is unknown and not understood. Whatever is unknown is always terrible. But the phantom is composed of matter too tenuous to present any obstacle, and I do not doubt that it would dissolve and disappear if you attempted to walk through it."

Rheumatism—Catarrh, are Blood Diseases—Cure Free.

It is the deep-seated, obstinate cases of Catarrh and Rheumatism that B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm) cures. It matters not what other treatments, doctors, sprays, liniments, medicated air, blood purifiers, have failed to do, B. B. B. always promptly reaches the real cause and roots out and drives from the bones, joints, mucous membrane, and entire system the specific poison in the blood that causes Rheumatism and Catarrh. B. B. B. is the only remedy strong enough to do this so there can never be a return of the symptoms. Don't give up hope but ask your druggist for B. B. B.—Botanic Blood Balm or three B's. Large bottles \$1. six bottles (full treatment) \$5. B. B. B. is an honest remedy that makes real cures of all blood diseases after everything else fails. We have absolute confidence in Botanic Blood Balm; hence, so you may test it, we will send a Trial Bottle Free. Personal medical advice free. Address: Blood Balm Co., 380 Mitchell St., Atlanta, Ga. For sale by Hill-Orr Drug Co. and Wilhite & Wilhite.

—Dancing eggs are said to be abundant in Shasta County, California. The egg is laid by an unknown insect on the oak leaves, and when it is mature it drops to the ground, where it dances about as if animated.

"I had dyspepsia for years; no medicine was so effective as Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. It gave immediate relief. Two bottles produced marvelous results," writes L. H. Warren, Albany, Wis. It digests what you eat and cannot fail to cure. Evans Pharmacy.

—The Indians of the interior of Bolivia wear shirts and hats made of the bark of a tree, which is soaked in water to soften the fiber, and then beaten to make it pliable.

Furniture Polish.

There is a simple mixture of kerosene and linseed oil, two quarts of kerosene to one of linseed oil, which makes the best furniture polish that has come to my notice. This should only be mixed a little at a time. Some use turpentine but this is not so trustworthy as it will dull instead of brighten the polish in time. After the piece of furniture to be treated has been well dusted, take a soft piece of flannel and dip in the preparation; rub a small surface of woodwork, and then take another small surface, allowing the first to stand while this is being done; then take a clean flannel, and rub until the polish shines to suit you. This will leave a polish brilliant and beautiful. If this polishing takes place occasionally, the furniture may be kept looking like new for an almost indefinite time; indeed, I might say indefinitely, if it is all of wood. Be sure the rags are absolutely clean and free from dust; the same ones may be used, and washed to use again as long as they last.

When there are upholstered cushions on the chairs or other furniture, dust well with a whisk broom, then rub rapidly with a flannel wet with gasoline. There must be no fire in the room during the process, and not even a match struck in it until the odor has evaporated, it will be best to set such pieces out of doors to clean them, if possible.—*Lutheran Observer.*

An Editor's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

During the early part of October, 1896, I contracted a bad cold which settled on my lungs and was neglected until I feared that consumption had appeared in an incipient state. I was constantly coughing and trying to expel something which I could not. I became alarmed and after giving the local doctor a trial bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the result was immediate improvement, and after I had used three bottles my lungs were restored to their healthy state.—B. S. Edwards, publisher of *The Review*, Wyant, Ill. For sale by Hill-Orr Drug Co.

—Gasoline drunkards are becoming common among the small boys in the vicinity of North Penn village, a suburb of Philadelphia, and the district known as "swampoodle." For sometime past the police of the Twenty-second district have been mystified by finding youngsters fast asleep and in a semi-conscious condition, stowed away in vacant houses, woodsheds and brickyards. It was finally discovered that the boys had become beastly drunk from inhaling the fumes of gasoline, and some of them have developed into juvenile debauches.

YOU NEED

A stimulant occasionally. The digestive organs, the liver, the kidneys and bowels lose their effectiveness at times and need help. At such times a stimulating, cleansing and regulating medicine is of priceless value because serious diseases spring from neglected disorders in these organs. An admirable stimulant and system regulator will be found in—

PRICKLY ASH BITTERS.

The uniform success of this remedy in correcting disturbance in the system is due to its four-fold cleansing and regulating effect. It is in the first place a kidney remedy of superior merit. Second, it is a successful liver tonic. Third, it tones up and strengthens the digestive process in the stomach. Lastly, it purifies and regulates the bowels. By removing obstructions and impurities in the blood, liver and bowels and strengthening the digestion, the whole internal organism is improved, because there is unimpeded action in all the organs that assist in maintaining health and strength. As a result of this condition the MAN becomes himself again, he feels at once a brightening up in body and brain, renewed energy, snap, vim and activity.

PERMANENTLY CURES A CONSTIPATED HABIT.

As a household remedy to relieve indigestion, sour stomach, bad breath, belching, flatulence, bloating after eating, and for keeping the system in perfect order it is invaluable. Wards off sickness, cures kidney diseases, nervous weakness, disorders in the urine, bladder trouble, headaches, heartburn, dizziness.

EVANS' PHARMACY, Special Agents.

PALPITATION OF THE HEART.

Many persons are subject to spells of violent heart throbbing, so severe at times as to be almost painful. They regard this as an indication of heart disease and often worry about it thus aggravating the trouble. Ninety-nine per cent of these "heart troubles" are due entirely to disorders in the stomach and digestion and can be cured by applying proper treatment. For this purpose PRICKLY ASH BITTERS is an effective remedy, it cleanses and tones up the stomach, strengthens the digestion, regulates the liver and purifies the bowels. By overhauling and correcting the system in this way it removes the cause of the heart symptoms and helps to build up a strong and vigorous body.

